AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the Specification as follows:

Please delete the paragraph on page 9, lines 3-6, and replace it with the following paragraph:

--**Figure 1A(i)** is a representation showing the nucleotide sequence of both strands **(SEQ ID NO: 1 which encodes the protein and SEQ ID NO: 3, respectively in order of appearance)** of a differentially expressed band in hypothalamus tissue of lean and obese *Psammomys obesus* corresponding to *beacon.* The amino acids encoded by each codon are shown above in single letter code **(SEQ ID NO: 2)** and the numbering refers to the amino acid position from the start codon.--

Please delete the paragraph on page 9, lines 8-10, and replace it with the following paragraph:

--**Figure 1B** is a representation of a nucleotide **(SEQ ID NO: 13)** and corresponding amino acid sequence **(SEQ ID NO: 14)** of human *beacon.* Human *beacon* is a "short" form of *Psammomys obesus beacon* except that amino acid 15 may be His or Arg. The corresponding codon may be CGC or CAC, respectively.--

Please delete the paragraph on page 9, lines 12-17, and replace it with the following paragraph:

--**Figure 2** is a representation showing (A). Amino acid alignments of beacon **(SEQ ID NO: 2)** with putative human **(SEQ ID NO: 15)**, mouse **(SEQ ID NO: 16)**, *Caenorhabditis elegans* **(SEQ ID NO: 17)**, *Fasiola hepatica* **(SEQ ID NO: 18)**, rice **(SEQ ID NO: 19)** and *Saccharomyes cerevisiae* **(SEQ ID NO: 20)** gene products. (B). Amino acid alignments of beacon **(SEQ ID NO: 2 shown as the top sequence twice)** with human ubiquitin **(SEQ ID NO: 21)** and ubiquitin-like protein 8 from *Arabidopsis thaliana* **(SEQ ID NO: 22)**. Identical amino acids are marked with a line and plus signs indicate deletions are indicated by forward slashes. A spliced leader sequence in the *F. hepatica* gene did not allow the amino terminal amino acids to be compared.--